

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 8-15 are pending. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 15, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kreager et al. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

It is the Examiner's view that "with respect to claim 15, Kreager et al. anticipates an ultrasonic sealing apparatus in which a laminated packaging material containing thermoplastic is formed into a tubular form and the tubular material is transversely ultrasonically sealed by an apparatus comprising of a horn 12 with an elongated and flat sealing face 24 and an opposing jaw 18 as seen in Figure 1 of Kreager et al. The opposing jaw is disclosed as having an elongated pressing face that presses the packaging material in cooperation with the sealing face of the horn and having a center portion and two end portions wherein the center portion is narrower than both end portions as seen in figure as item 28 in Figure 1."

It is believed that these conclusions have been made based on a misunderstanding by Examiner.

First, the apparatus for ultrasonic sealing disclosed by Kreager et al. comprises a first jaw 16 to which an ultrasonic horn 12 is movably mounted and a second jaw 18 to which an ultrasonic anvil 14 is securely mounted.

Comparison between the apparatus for ultrasonic sealing disclosed by Keager et al. and an ultrasonic sealing apparatus of the present invention, shows that "a second jaw 18" of the former corresponds to "an opposing jaw" of the latter, and "an elongated pressing face" of the present invention exists in "an opposing jaw". This leads to the conclusion that, "an ultrasonic anvil 14" of "a second jaw 18" needs to comprise "an elongated pressing face", on the condition that "an elongated pressing face" of the present invention is disclosed by Kreager et al.

Examiner found that "it is disclosed that the center portion is narrower than both end portions as seen in figure as item 28 in Figure 1." However, as is apparent from Figure 1, item 28 in Figure 1 is mounted to a first jaw 16. [Meanwhile, a second jaw 18 is indicated by an arrow 18 in the lower section of Figure 1, and an area corresponding to "an elongated pressing face" is not illustrated in Figure 1.] Further, it is stated that "the upper film pulling means 28 of